street lighting systems, power plants, solar pumps, solar lanterns, solar water heating systems and solar cookers is being supported through central subsidy, soft loan packages and other incentives. In addition, the Ministry is supporting the establishment of 'Aditya' solar shops in selected cities of the country.

The solar energy programmes are being implemented in Andhra Pradesh by the State nodal agency for renewable energy programmes i.e. the Non-Conventional Energy Development Corporation of Andhra Pradesh (NEDCAP), the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA) and some banks.

The Ministry released Rs. 58.80 lakhs during 1999-2000, Rs. 200.18 lakhs during 2000-01 and Rs. 154.71 lakhs during 2001-02 for the implementation of solar energy programmes in the State.

The following solar energy systems have been installed in Andhra Pradesh, so far:

(a) 33,167 solar lanterns,

(b) 1,016 solar home lighting systems,

(c) 927 solar street lighting systems,

(d) 603 solar pumps,

(e) 9.60 kWp SPV small power plants,

(f) 100 kWp grid connected SPV power plant,

(g) 1,146 Box type solar cookers

(h) 43 solar cookers (SK-14 type)

(i) 150 dish cookers

(j) 6 community solar cookers (Sheffler type)

(k) the World's largest solar team cooking system at Tirumala

(l) Solar steam cooking system at Rishi Valley School, Chittoor.

An 'Aditya' solar shop for promoting the sales of solar energy systems has also been set up at Hyderabad.

Purchase of coal for power generation from Coal India Ltd. by NTPC

†151. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Thermal Power Corporation purchases coal for power generation from Coal India Limited;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the average quantity of coal purchased annually along with the annual cost of the coal purchased during the year 2001-2002;

(c) whether it is also a fact that ash content is also present in the coal purchased from Coal India Ltd.; and

(d) if so, the percentage of ash occurred in this coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The total quantity of coal purchased by NTPC during the year 2001-02 was 76.60 Million Tonnes (Coal India Limited—67.93 Million Tonnes & Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.—8.67 Million Tonnes). The total cost of the coal purchased in the year 2001-02 was Rs. 7,176.60 crore.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The percentage of ash in coal purchased by NTPC ranges from 30% to 42%.

Collapse of Northern grid

152. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that throughout the month of January this year, there was complete breakdown of the Northern grid and Delhi and neighbouring States went without power;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to prevent the recurrence of such large scale power failure which takes place both in severe winter and summer with unfailing regularity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There was neither any case of breakdown of the Northern Grid nor any incidence of Delhi and neighbouring States going without power during January, 2003. However, due to heavy fog and inclement weather during most part of January, 2003 the demand of power had substantially increased in Northern Region. On the other hand, the flow of power from the Eastern part of Northern Region to the Western part was restricted due to outage of one pole of HVDC Rihand-Dadri line and also on account of restrictions imposed on some trunk transmission lines due to foggy weather conditions.